

21/1/58

**DARTON (Yorks.)
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT



of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and **CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT**

for the Year 1956

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for the Year 1956

DARTON (YORKS) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956

Chairman

Mr. Councillor George Arthur Priestley

Members

January to May, 1956

Councillors

Mr. C. Mason, J.P.
(Chairman of the Council)
Mr. A. Hinchliffe, J.P.
(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Mr. O. A. Beevers
Mr. H. Eastwood
Mrs. C. Empsall
Mr. W. Irwin
Mr. H. P. Lockwood
Mr. I. Mason

May to December, 1956

Councillors

Mr. F. Steeple, J.P.
(Chairman of the Council)
Mr. C. Mason
(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Mr. O. A. Beevers
Mrs. C. Empsall
Mr. A. Hinchliffe
Mr. S. Hepworth
Mr. W. Irwin
Mr. H. P. Lockwood
Mr. I. Mason

Clerk to the Council

Robert Smith

Medical Officer of Health

R. S. Hynd, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Resigned November, 1956)

R. Barnes, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed December, 1956)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

I. Fieldhouse, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Certified Smoke Inspector)

Additional Public Health Inspector

J. B. Sutton, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

DARTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Divisional Health Office,
6 Victoria Road,
BARNESLEY

November, 1957

ANNUAL REPORT for the Year ended 31st December, 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the
Darton Urban District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Empsall and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your area for the year ended 31st December, 1956. Since only one month of the year came within my term of office, comment will necessarily be brief, but I must make mention of one very disturbing aspect of the vital statistics. I refer to those statistics regarding the Infant Deaths and Stillbirths. In a district where the number of births is relatively small, fluctuations in the number of deaths will inevitably be magnified when expressed as rates per 1,000. Nevertheless, the increase in both Infant Deaths and Stillbirths in your district last year is a very real one, and means that there is no room for complacency in our concern for maternal and child welfare.

I now turn to a brighter subject: the incidence of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, in the district last year was very low, and there was a welcomed increase in the number of parents accepting preventive inoculations against the various diseases.

It is with great pleasure that I make comment on your Authority's progress with the slum clearance programme and, although the year showed only moderate progress in results, many preliminary steps were taken which will show greater results in my next report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support and continued interest in all matters relating to the health of the district, my divisional health staff for their willing assistance and your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. I. Fieldhouse, for his help and loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. BARNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DARTON

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area	4,726 acres
Registrar General's estimate of population	
Mid 1956	14,540
No. of inhabited houses according to Rate	
Book on the 31st December, 1956	4,439
Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1957	£92,983
Nett Product of a Penny Rate (1957-58)	£350

This district is predominantly a coal-mining area with the majority of the population earning their living directly or indirectly from the mining industry. The other industries in the district, apart from one electrical engineering firm employing up to 1,000 people, are small in size and scope. The problem of finding suitable work for the school leavers once again did not prove difficult. The majority of boys entered the mining industry and the remainder found employment with various firms at no great distance from their homes. The majority of girls entered the textile industry in factories not too far distant from their homes.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	120	120	240
Illegitimate	1	4	5
	<hr/> 121	<hr/> 124	<hr/> 245

The number of live births registered showed an increase of 47 from the previous year. 53% of the mothers had their confinements in Maternity Homes or Hospitals as compared with 47% in 1955. The Registrar General supplied a comparability factor which relates the proportion of women in the district of child-bearing age with the proportion in a standard population. The crude birth rate multiplied by the comparability factor gives an adjusted birth rate which is comparable with the birth rate for the country as a whole. The adjusted birth rate for your district last year was 16.5 per 1,000 estimated population compared with 13.5 per 1,000 estimated population in 1955 and with 15.7 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales. The excess of births over deaths, or the natural increase of population, was 98 as compared with 81 for the previous year.

Premature Babies

25 babies were born prematurely last year, 9 of whom were born at home and 16 in hospital. Of the 9 born at home, 3 were nursed entirely at home and 8 survived. 9 of the premature babies born in hospital survived.

Stillbirths

15 stillbirths were notified last year as compared with 5 in 1955. The stillbirth rate was 57.7 per 1,000 total births as compared with 24.6 per 1,000 total births in 1955 and with 23 per 1,000 total births for England and Wales.

Deaths

The adjusted death rate, which is the crude death rate multiplied by the comparability factor was 13.5 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 10.0 per 1,000 estimated population in 1955 and with 11.7 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales. There were 147 deaths among the inhabitants of your district during the year, 30 more than for the previous year.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: heart and circulatory diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases. Statistics relating to death rates and the causes and ages at death are given in tabular form at the end of the section on vital statistics.

Infant Mortality and Peri-Natal Mortality

There were eleven infant deaths last year with an Infant Death Rate of 44.9 per 1,000 live births as compared with 33.3 per 1,000 live births in 1955 and with 23.8 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales. All of the deaths occurred during the neo-natal period.

Much has been written on the subject of peri-natal mortality and it must be agreed that this is a good expression of the standard of ante-natal care, although, of course, many of the causes of death are outside the scope of medical knowledge. Peri-natal mortality is expressed as the number of stillbirths plus the number of deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

I give below a record of your district for the past five years, and it will be seen that this year's figures are hardly to be regarded as satisfactory.

Year	Live Births	Still Births	Death in 1st week of life	Peri-natal Death Rate
1952	240	7	4	44.5
1953	223	11	1	51.3
1954	201	8	2	47.4
1955	198	5	2	34.4
1956	245	15	10	96.1

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

Based on the Registrar General's Figures

	Darton Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (prov. figures)
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude	16.9	15.8	16.4	15.7
Adjusted	16.5	16.0	16.5	15.7
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude	10.1	12.6	11.8	11.7
Adjusted	13.5	13.1	12.9	11.7
Infective and Parasitic diseases excluding Tuberculosis but including Venereal Diseases	—	0.07	0.07	Not available
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.11
Other	—	0.01	0.02	0.01
All forms	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.12
Cancer	1.58	2.05	1.89	2.08
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1.72	2.05	1.86	Not available
Heart and circulatory diseases	2.89	4.76	4.47	Not available
Respiratory diseases	1.03	1.37	1.29	Not available
Maternal Mortality	—	0.69	0.52	0.56
Infant Mortality	44.9	25.9	27.1	23.8
Stillbirths	57.7	23.5	23.1	23.0

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	10	1	11
1- 5 years	1	1	2
5-10 years	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	1	1
15-20 years	1	—	1
20-25 years	—	—	—
25-35 years	3	—	3
35-45 years	2	4	6
45-55 years	4	4	8
55-65 years	17	12	29
65-70 years	10	2	12
70-75 years	8	13	21
75-80 years	10	19	29
80-85 years	9	7	16
85-90 years	4	4	8
90 years and over	—	—	—
TOTALS	79	68	147

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	15	25
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	3	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
20. Other heart disease	9	12	21
21. Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	4	5
24. Bronchitis	8	2	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of the prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	8	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	3
34. All other accidents	4	3	7
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	79	68	147

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The problem of residential accommodation for the aged and infirm is the responsibility of the County Council. The responsibility for the provision of chronic sick hospital accommodation rests with the Regional Hospital Board. I think, by now, we are all aware of the difficulties inherent in such a state of divided responsibility, and I think that little can be added to the solution of the problem by extolling the difficulties which inevitably are encountered. Many patients seem to fall between the two groups in that they are too frail for Part III Accommodation and yet are not chronic sick in the usual meaning of the term. The problem of old people needing ground floor accommodation in hostels has remained as difficult as ever.

Comment on the hospital provision for the acute sick, maternity patients and those suffering from infectious diseases can be brief for the services provided were, as always, both adequate and good.

General Hospitals

The general hospitals serving your district are given below. Their administration rests with the Leeds and Sheffield Hospital boards through the local hospital management committees.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board

1. Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.
2. General Hospital, Wakefield.
3. Leeds General Infirmary.

Sheffield Regional Hospital Board

1. The United Group Hospitals, Sheffield.
2. The Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.
3. The St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals

All infectious diseases requiring hospital admission were admitted to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. The ambulance arrangements were the same as for the previous year with the hospital retaining its own ambulances for this service.

Maternity Hospitals

Maternity cases were usually admitted to the following hospitals:

- St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.
- Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.
- Manygates Hospital, Wakefield.
- Hallamshire Maternity Home, Chapeltown.

The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield and the Maternity Hospital, Leeds, were also available for abnormal obstetric cases.

Tuberculosis Scheme

The co-operation between the Chest Centre and the Health Department continued and, consequently, the essential link between the curative and preventive aspects of Tuberculosis was maintained. The two whole-time Tuberculosis Visitors, while employed by the local health authority, had, for practical reasons, their day-to-day duties arranged by the Chest Physician. This very effective arrangement enhanced the value of their work for they came to know the tuberculosis patient and his contacts equally and were able to give advice to both alike.

The after-care arrangements included extra nourishment, when recommended by the Chest Physician, in the form of a free milk allowance and bed, bedding and other nursing nursing equipment were issued on loan to patients where necessary. The Home Help service was also available when required.

The programme of the clinics held at the Chest Centre, 46 Church Street, Barnsley, is given below:

Tuesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon (children).
Wednesday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Wednesday,	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Thursday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Friday,	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Venereal Diseases

The nearest centre for Darton patients for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is in Barnsley.

Address: Special Treatment Centre,
Queen's Road,
BARNSELEY.

Other centres are situate at Sheffield, Wakefield and Rotherham and a patient suffering from Venereal Disease is at liberty to attend at the centre of his choice. Treatment is completely confidential.

Home Nursing

The Home Nurses in the division made 53,448 visits last year. 20,287 of these being to medical cases. 9,070 were to surgical cases and 265 visits were made to tuberculosis patients. The total number of visits made during the year showed a slight decrease, although the number of visits made for the purpose of injections rose by nearly 2,000 to 23,747. I feel that with the present establishment of Home Nurses a peak has been reached in the number of visits made. There is obviously a limit to the amount of work which can be done by a given number of nurses. The number of visits made to

old people over the age of 65 again accounted for nearly 60% of the total visits. 721 visits were made to children under five year of age. The home nursing service, in conjunction with the general practitioners of your area, is undoubtedly making a large contribution towards treating many patients in their own homes. But for this, I am afraid, the problem of chronic sick accommodation might be even worse than it is today.

Home Help Service

The home help service continued in 1956 to provide a service mainly for the old people of your district. 90% of the available home help hours were again given to such households.

An increase in the establishment of home helps was received towards the end of the year, but this was really too late to have much effect on the figures for 1956. On average 342 households per week were assisted as against 300 in 1955. The average weekly assistance given to old people was just under four hours to each old person. The Hospital Authorities on many occasions sought our assistance towards providing a home help for an old person before he or she was discharged from hospital. I think there is still room for improvement in the co-operation between the Hospitals and the local health authority along these lines.

Approximately 2% of the Home Help hours were given to Maternity cases. These cases are not numerous, but when they do occur, the number of hours per week required is often as high as 24-30.

Sometimes by providing a home help to a maternity case, a break-up of the family can be avoided, as otherwise children might have to be taken into care during the confinement by the Children's Department.

Laboratory Service

The laboratory service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield, a national service under the control of the Medical Research Council. The laboratory is equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations, and a complete investigation is undertaken and report furnished for every specimen sent for examination.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis were examined by the Public Analyst at Bradford at the expense of the County Council.

Ambulance Service

For the first time the amount of work carried out by the local ambulance service has been reduced. The number of patients carried was nearly 2,000 fewer than in 1955, and almost 10,000 miles were saved.

This is thought largely to be due to the more efficient use of the service, which is possible with radio control, and the use of an Ambulance Control Officer at Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, has also helped to provide a more efficient use of the service.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Attendances during 1956.

	Children under 1 year	Children 1 to 4 years
Darton	1901	1340
Higham	495	309
Staincross	1375	643

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Attendances during 1956.

Darton	65
Higham	33
Staincross	2

This service is provided by means of three clinics situated at Darton, Higham and Staincross. To avoid confusion it might be opportune to mention here that in 1957 the clinic was transferred from Higham to Intake Lane, Gawber.

A combined Infant Welfare Clinic is held at Darton on a Wednesday afternoon and this clinic is flourishing. There was a marked increase in the attendance for both infant welfare and expectant mothers compared with the previous year, with an average attendance of 67 children each afternoon. The Staincross Clinic showed an increase of approximately 200 attendances in the year. The ante-natal clinic at Staincross is almost non-existent as the work has largely been taken over by general practitioners who hold their own ante-natal clinics. The attendance at Higham clinic declined during the year by nearly 200 attendances.

I feel that some mention should be made here on the work of the voluntary committee at these clinics. If it were not for these good people the nurse would be quite overburdened and she would have no time to give attention to the mothers who need her advice. It is still in my mind that the health visitor at the clinic should be free to carry out her primary function of health education during the course of the clinic, and I am still not certain that she is adequately able to do this. The number of voluntary workers at clinics in Darton is not large, and I am sure there must be many people who would be willing to help, and their assistance would be much appreciated.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work undertaken by the Mental Health Section is steadily expanding, particularly as a result of public interest through the publicity that has been given to the problem of Mental Health through the medium of the National Press, Radio and Television.

People are beginning to appreciate that mental illness is not a social stigma, as has been the case in past generations, and because of this a much more lively interest is being shown and problems that before have been shelved are now being discussed openly with an objective in mind.

From various reports it would appear that approximately 20%-30% of patients attending General Practitioners suffer from neurosis, or other illnesses associated with mental conflict. Also, when the report of the Royal Commission who are considering the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Legislation is issued it may show the need for Local Authorities to provide greater "after-care" facilities both for patients discharged from Mental Hospitals and patients on licence from Mental Deficiency Institutions. Both these aspects show that the Mental Health Service will still have a further need for greater expansion.

During the year there were two part-time Mental Health Social Workers in the division who carry out Statutory Supervision Mental Deficiency Visits; supervision of Guardianship and Licence Cases; After-care Visits of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals, and attend Psychiatric Clinics.

Mental Deficiency

Set out below are details of the mental defectives in this Division, who are visited by the Social Workers.

		Under 16 years		Over 16 years	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Statutory Supervision	.....	14	20	54	61
Guardianship	.....	—	—	—	2
Voluntary Supervision	.....	1	—	23	24
Total—199		15	20	77	87

During the year the following new cases have been notified:

Section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944	.....	6
Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944		
on leaving Special School	.....	1
Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944		
on leaving Ordinary School	.....	2
Reported on transfer to this Division from		
outside the Area	.....	6

During the year the following defectives have been removed from the Register:

Removals to Institutions	2
Transferred to other Authorities on removal from the Division	2
De-classified	2
Died	1

Short-Stay Vacancies

Under the provisions laid down for short-stay vacancies, where relief of a temporary nature can be given in the case of illness or emergency 5 defectives were admitted during the year for periods of up to one month. This provision is greatly appreciated, and it is regretted that the Regional Hospital Board have not the accommodation to enable more vacancies to be available for this purpose.

Occupation Centre

It is regretted that I cannot report that the Occupation Centre at The Gables, Wombwell, is functioning, but the position is now that the building is being adapted, and should be completed by the end of January, 1957.

A staff of 3 will be appointed to run the Centre; a Supervisor and 2 Assistants. The Centre will cater for 27 defectives, but it is hoped that eventually the ground adjacent to the Centre will be utilised and a further extension to the Centre be added so that a greater number of defectives may be offered the facilities of Occupation Centre training.

Training of Mental Defectives

At present 14 children and 6 adult mental defectives are attending full-time at the Barnsley and Hemsworth Occupation Centres. Some of these mental defectives will be transferred to The Gables, Wombwell, and the vacancies created at the Occupation Centre, Barnsley, will be allocated to Darton, Royston and Cudworth.

There were two Home Teachers in this division and they gave instruction at the undermentioned Group Training

Monday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The Darby and Joan Club, ROYSTON.
Tuesday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The Gables, WOMBWELL.
Wednesday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The Gables, WOMBWELL.
Thursday,	9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. The Ambulance Hall, WORSBROUGH.
Friday,	9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The Welfare Clinic, DARTON.

24 Defectives attend the Group Training Classes, and in some instances defectives attend more than one session, and are issued with travel vouchers to cover their transport.

26 defectives are visited in their homes by the home teachers, when it is not possible for them to attend the Group Training Classes.

Employment

The question of obtaining employment for high grade mental defectives is becoming somewhat of a problem as there would appear to be a dearth of suitable employment. The Juvenile Employment Officer and Ministry of Labour give every assistance to try and secure work that is within the capacity of the defective.

37 males and 19 females under Statutory Supervision and 19 males and 3 females under Voluntary Supervision are in regular gainful employment.

Mental Health After Care

During the past year there have been 45 discharges from Mental Hospitals (principally Storthes Hall Mental Hospital) and 9 deaths in Mental Hospitals have been notified. The Social Workers visit within approximately one month of the patient's discharge to enquire as to the welfare of the patient. These visits on the whole are welcomed, as the patient more often than not has had no contact with anyone since discharge and she feels that an interest is still being shown. Sometimes a visit is resented as there is a "guilt complex" on the part of the patient or relative that mental hospital treatment has been necessary, and unless the social worker is asked, no further follow-up is attempted.

Some of the patients, although progressing, have some problem which is giving rise to anxiety and delaying full recovery, and often the Mental Health Service is able to give practical assistance. Others may be relapsing and will attend the Psychiatric Out-Patients Clinic through the General Practitioner, when advised by the Social Worker.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE



Two important schemes in the prevention of Tuberculosis were again continued through the medium of the School Health Service during the year.

I give below details of this service.

B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme

The response to this scheme, in general, was not as good as in the previous year. I feel that this scheme offers the real hope of reducing Tuberculosis in the area, particularly over the next 10-15 years.

The procedure is quite a simple one of giving a small skin test in the fore-arm and if this is negative the children concerned are given vaccination the following week.

The success of the vaccination is confirmed by another skin test performed the following year. Parents are urged to accept this offer as, in my view, this is a really worth while procedure.

District	No. of children tested	No. Positive	% Positive	No. Negative	Vaccinated
Cudworth	128	28	21.9	100	99
Darfield	72	21	29.2	51	51
Darton	82	19	23.2	63	61
Dodworth	49	14	28.6	35	35
Royston	99	28	29.3	71	71
Wombwell	170	54	31.8	116	116
Worsbrough	99	13	13.2	86	84
Totals	699	177	25.3	522	517

Tuberculin Testing of School Entrants

This service was again offered to all new entrants to Infant Schools during the year. The results obtained were very similar to last year, and I think the remarks made then are still applicable.

I give below details of testing.

District	No. of children offered Tuberculin	No. of parents accepting	No. positive	No. referred	% acceptance	% Positive
Royston						
Total No. of children in the Survey	112	105	—	—	93.7	—
Cudworth						
Total No. of children in the Survey	175	156	6	3	89.0	3.8
Total without known contacts	172	153	3	3	89.0	1.9
Darton						
Total No. of children in the Survey	106	99	1	—	93.4	1.0
Total without known contacts	105	98	—	—	93.4	—
Dodworth						
Total No. of children in the Survey	74	54	11	11	72.9	20.4
Darfield						
Total No. of children in the Survey	60	56	1	—	93.0	1.8
Total without known contacts	59	55	—	—	93.0	—
Wombwell						
Total No. of children in the Survey	236	198	4	2	84.2	2.0
Total without known contacts	234	196	2	2	84.2	1.0
Worsbrough						
Total No. of children in the Survey	163	147	3	2	90.2	2.0
Total without known contacts	162	146	2	2	90.0	1.36
Divisional Total	926	815	26	18	88.0	3.2
Totals without known contacts	918	807	18	18	87.9	2.2
Divisional Totals						
(without Dodworth)	852	761	15	7	89.3	1.9
Total without known contacts	844	753	7	7	89.2	0.9

Results in the Darton Urban District were very satisfactory. Out of approximately 100 children tested only one child was found to be positive and this child was a contact of a known case. The acceptance rate was over 93%.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out by Dr. S. G. A. Henriques at the undermentioned schools :

- Kexbrough Infants' School.
- Barugh Green Junior Mixed and Infants School.
- Kexbrough Junior Mixed School.
- Mapplewell Junior Mixed School.
- Darton Secondary Modern Girls' School.
- Darton Secondary Modern Boys' School.

Summary of Defects found:

School visited	No. of children examined	DEFECTS FOUND						No. passed for Treatment
		Ocular	E.N.T.	Heart	Orthopaedic	Lungs	Others	
Kexbrough Infants	77	3	9	—	4	—	6	3
Barugh Green J.M.&I.	151	9	6	—	4	4	15	7
Kexbrough J.M.	93	17	8	—	3	2	11	11
Mapplewell J.M.	32	6	4	—	2	—	4	6
Girls' Secondary Mod.	199	66	10	2	11	4	17	40
Boys' Secondary Mod.	210	46	7	1	—	3	12	25
Totals	762	147	44	3	24	13	65	92

CLINICS

School Clinics

	No. of individual children who attended and were seen by Doctor
DARTON (2 clinics per month)	
Infants' School, Station Road, Darton	177
HIGHAM (1 clinic per month)	
Church Hall, Higham Common Road, Higham ...	44
STAINCROSS (1 clinic per month)	
Wesleyan Sunday School, Barnsley Road, Staincross	53
Total all Clinics	274

Special Clinics

Ophthalmic Clinics

Dr. N. L. McNeil, M.B., D.O.M.S., Ophthalmologist
 No. of children examined 252

Orthopaedic Clinics

Mr. T. L. Lawson, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon
 No. of children examined 16

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

Mr. W. L. Rowe, F.R.C.S., E.N.T., Surgeon
 No. of children examined 59

Paediatric Clinics

Dr. C. C. Harvey, M.D., M.R.C.P., Paediatrician
 No. of children examined 22

Child Guidance Clinic

Dr. S. M. Leese, Psychiatrist
 No. of children examined 6
 No. of attendances 14

Speech Therapy Clinic

No Speech Therapist

Minor Ailments Clinics

Darton	
No. of individual children treated by Health Visitors	79
Total attendances	114
Higham	
No. of individual children treated by Health Visitors	37
Total attendances	58
Kexbrough	
No. of individual children treated by Health Visitors	27
Total attendances	32
Staincross	
No. of individual children treated by Health Visitors	65
Total attendances	95

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Housing

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 4,439. 44 new houses were completed during the year of which six were built by your Council. A detailed analysis of the housing situation is given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Water Report

The Council's water supply is obtained from boreholes owned by Penistone Urban District Council and from the Barnsley Corporation Reservoirs. Both these supplies are chlorinated at the source and delivered to us as a piped supply at Kirkwood, Penistone, Silkstone, Higham and Staincross Station.

During the year all these supplies were well-maintained and we had no cause to complain. This was the first time for a number of years that we had not been asked by the Penistone Urban District Council to reduce our consumption because the water in the boreholes was very low.

All samples from the mains supplies were of a good Bacteriological and Chemical nature.

The Chemical Analyst's report is as follows:

	Parts per million
Total Solids	400
Chloride	26
Nitrite	NIL
Nitrate	3.77
Free Ammonia	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.01
Poisonous Metal	NIL
Total Hardness	280
Permanent Hardness	114
Temporary Hardness	166
P.H.	7.4
Alkalinity as CaCo ₃	166

This water is of good organic purity.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

	No. of Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	9	1	—
Pneumonia	11	4	5
Measles	13	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	2	2	—
Whooping Cough	20	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
	58	9	5

The age distribution of the infectious diseases notified during the year is shown in the following table:

	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	1	7	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	2	—	1	5	2	—
Measles	2	4	7	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	10	8	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	5	19	23	2	6	3	—

Scarlet Fever

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified last year, 2 fewer than in the previous year. Of the 9 cases one was admitted to hospital more because of the difficulty of nursing and isolation at home than because of the severity of the disease. In general the disease was mild, there were no deaths and no serious complications.

Measles

Only 13 cases of Measles occurred last year in your district, which was a considerable reduction on the previous year. It will be seen from the table on Infectious Diseases over the past ten years that a certain cycle of events takes place in respect of this disease. This was a year of low incidence.

	Parish Hall, DARTON	MAPPLEWELL
TOTAL RADIOGRAPHED	723	982
TUBERCULOSIS—Active	2	—
Inactive	5	3
OTHER DISEASES AND ABNORMALITIES		
Abnormalities of the Bony Thorax and Soft Tissues—congenital	—	1
Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs	—	2
Bronchiectasis	—	1
Emphysema	1	—
Pulmonary fibrosis—non-tuberculous	1	7
Pneumoconiosis	12	13
Sarcoidosis and collagenous diseases	—	1
Pleural thickening or calcification—non- tuberculous	1	1
Abnormalities of the diaphragm and oesophagus—congenital and acquired	—	1
Acquired abnormalities of the heart and vessels	10	14

TUBERCULOSIS—Record of Cases during 1956

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on Register at 1st January, 1956	33	28	9	7
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year	11	7	1	1
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—
No. of cases added to register otherwise than by notification	—	—	1	—
No. removed to other districts	—	—	—	—
No. cured or otherwise removed from register	3	1	—	1
No. died from disease	1	1	—	—
No. died from other causes	—	1	1	—
Total at end of 1956	40	32	10	7

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality in 1956

Age Periods	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0- 1 year	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	1	—	—
15-20 years	3	—	—	—
20-25 years	1	—	—	—
25-35 years	7	—	—	—
35-45 years	3	—	—	—
45-55 years	1	—	—	—
55-65 years	3	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	1	2	—
Totals	18	2	2	—

DARTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1956

To the

Chairman and Members of the Darton Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956. This is my tenth report and as usual I have tried to make its masses of figures as interesting to read as possible.

The Report is again divided into sections for easy reference and each section will, I hope, present a word picture of that particular aspect of our public health duties. Several times I have tried to show comparisons between this year and last in order to indicate to you that in matters of public health more and more progress simply must be our aim in order to provide healthier conditions for the people we serve.

If, after reading the Report, you form the opinion that progress was indeed made in 1956 please claim most of that credit for yourselves, because unless my staff and I receive from you either individually or as a Council the utmost encouragement and support throughout the year we could not possibly perform our duties successfully.

I extend my sincere thanks to all members of my staff for their loyalty and conscientiousness during the past twelve months and to the other officials of the Council for the pleasant co-operative spirit which has prevailed again throughout 1956. I regret that Dr. Hynd resigned his appointment as Medical Officer of Health during the year but I look forward to working alongside Dr. Barnes who has already shown that he will continue with that happy spirit of mutually assisting each other which has always existed between our two departments.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IRVINE FIELDHOUSE.

Chief Public Health Inspector
Cleansing Superintendent

SECTION 1

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The securing and maintaining of healthy surroundings for the people who live in our area plays a vital part in the improvement of public health. The paragraphs contained in this section give you an indication of the various duties we performed in order to achieve good environmental hygiene for the people of Darton.

Nuisances and Complaints

The number of complaints received was 499—48 less than in the previous year. The variety of complaints received is too numerous to itemise but the majority of them came from people who were troubled with house defects, stopped drains, offensive smells, cockroaches and other pests. All complaints were investigated and if justified every effort was made to remedy the nuisances found. During 1956 the actual number of nuisances found totalled 654 and by the end of the year 1,383 visits and re-visits had been made in order to achieve a final result of 600 nuisances abated in 1956 with the remainder to be dealt with in 1957.

Notices served and abated

- 392 Informal notices were served affecting 524 premises.
- 391 Informal notices were abated affecting 521 premises.
- 59 Statutory notices were served affecting 44 premises.
- 36 Statutory notices were abated affecting 31 premises.

Atmospheric Pollution

In order to assist the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research certain apparatus for measuring the degree of atmospheric pollution in Darton is sited at the Council Offices. The readings of these instruments continued to be forwarded monthly to the Department and the following summary shows the more important readings taken.

DEPOSIT GAUGE			LEAD PEROXIDE INSTRUMENT Amount of Acid in atmosphere (Milligrammes of Sulphur Trioxide per 100 square centimetres per day) (over 2.0 is excessive)
Month	Amount of rain- fall in inches	Tons of deposit per square mile	
January	3.89	16.68	1.65
February	0.31	7.22	3.46
March	1.04	19.83	1.48
April	2.22	12.42	1.26
May	0.52	9.50	0.95
June	2.49	12.23	0.85
July	4.36	20.07	0.77
August	5.96	12.12	1.16
September	3.37	20.27	0.62
October	1.24	7.85	0.68
November	0.62	3.66	1.02
December	3.11	4.96	1.67
TOTALS	29.13	146.81	15.57

It will be noticed that nearly 147 tons of soot deposits fell on each square mile of the area during 1956. Although I am pleased that this shows an improvement over the previous year, when I reported the figure to be as high as 176 tons, I still realise that over a thousand tons of good fuel escaped from our factory and domestic chimneys and fell on the 7½ square miles of Darton during 1956. Not only was it a waste of hard-earned coal but the smoke in which it escaped must surely have robbed us of sunshine, polluted the atmosphere, irritated our lungs, stunted our vegetation and dirtied our surroundings far more than we ought to tolerate.

Fortunately, 1956 brought a glimmer of hope that conditions would improve when the new Clean Air Act was announced but by the end of the year only certain sections could be enforced. When the Council became a member of the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee I attended several meetings on the Council's behalf to learn of the latest joint moves by constituent members of the Committee on methods of applying the provisions of the new Act. I found, however, that it will be most difficult to institute a smoke control area in Darton, a district which is primarily a mining area with its customs of concessionary coal for mineworkers, but perhaps a solution to this problem will someday be found at National level. I certainly hope so.

I cannot end my remarks on smoke abatement without mention of the improvements which began to take place at the Coke Oven plant at Claycliffe. For years this plant had contributed far more than its share of atmospheric pollution to the local area, but as a result of our continued pressure on the management a definite move was made in December which promised to make a rather startling, permanent reduction in the smoke emitted from this plant. It was hoped that after the installation of a simple steam injection pipe at a certain point in the system there might be a reduction of as much as seventy per cent of offensive fumes and gases which had previously been escaping from the plant during re-charging operations. If the hopes of the management are fulfilled I shall certainly look forward to mentioning this achievement in my next report.

Rodent Control

Considerable attention has been given this year to the control of rats on Council-owned properties. A treatment of the manholes in Mapplewell carried out in February and March showed that that system was widely infested, and therefore the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommended that in the next treatment all the manholes in Mapplewell should be baited. This extensive treatment was carried out, and a total of 78 manholes was treated. Members will appreciate the magnitude of this task when I tell them that many of the manhole covers were partially covered with tar, etc. and were tight and difficult to lift, and each cover had to be lifted on three separate days.

Fortunately the treatment carried out in February and March must have been largely effective, for in the second treatment only eight manholes were revealed to be infested.

In addition to the above work, treatments were carried out at other Council-owned properties (refuse tips, etc.), a test of 10% of the manholes in the District other than those in Mapplewell was made, the necessary maintenance treatments were carried out, and of course private and business premises were treated when necessary.

A statistical summary of the work carried out is given below.

(a) Tests of Local Authority's sewers

No. of manholes in the district	310
No. of manholes tested (not Mapplewell)	22
No. of manholes found to be infested	1

(b) Treatment of Local Authority's sewers

No. of manholes treated	157
No. of manholes showing pre-bait "takes"	33

(c) **Local Authority's refuse tips, the sewage works, and other properties**

All refuse tips and the sewage works have been under observation throughout the year. Treatments were necessary at Darton Main, Blacker Tip, and the sewage works.

No. of Local Authority's premises treated	.....	.....	5
No. of treatments carried out	.....	.....	7
No. of poison baits laid	.....	.....	138
No. of poison "takes"	.....	.....	114

(d) **Privately owned premises**

No. of premises treated	.....	.....	30
No. of poison baits laid	.....	.....	127
No. of poison "takes"	.....	.....	49

(e) **Business premises**

No. of premises treated	.....	.....	6
No. of poison baits laid	.....	.....	46
No. of poison "takes"	.....	.....	30

Insect Pests

Insect powder and liquids continued to be issued from the office to householders troubled with flies, cockroaches, moths, silverfish, woodworm and other insect pests. How pleasing it is to report the negligible trouble experienced nowadays from our old enemies the bed bug and the flea, and how grateful we are to our technical experts that they have produced for us the one hundred per cent efficacious powders and liquid insecticides to deal with these pests. What a pleasure it is to supply these discoveries to householders and present them with quick remedies to their troubles. And what a grand contribution this service must make to better environmental hygiene!

Infectious diseases

42 visits were made to dwellinghouses in order to obtain particulars which are required by the Medical Officer of Health for certain infectious diseases. Disinfection of the patient's bedroom and its contents was made where practicable and free issues of disinfectant continued to be made to ratepayers who applied for same from our depots.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

Good sanitation is always of major importance in assessing the extent of hygienic environmental conditions enjoyed by the residents of any particular area, and if progress can be made each year under this heading then the health of the people must surely be improved. The following summary shows the sanitary circumstances of Darton by the end of 1956 and when compared with the figures in brackets, which are those of 1955, an indication of the progress made in 1956 is very apparent.

No. of waterclosets	.....	4,857	(4,750)
No. of refuse bins	.....	4,627	(4,593)
No. of cesspools	.....	51	(77)
No. of septic tank units	.....	26	(29)
No. of privies	.....	16	(21)
No. of middens	.....	14	(19)
No. of pail closets	.....	26	(27)
No. of dwellings on mains water supply	.....	4,435	(4,425)
No. of dwellings on spring water supply	.....	4	(4)
No. of dwellings served by waterclosets	.....	4,399	(4,384)
No. of dwellings with bath installed	.....	2,820	(2,129)

I would like to make a few comments on the above figures.

Waterclosets—At the end of the year 99.14 per cent (98.98 in 1955) of all closets in the area were water closets. Most dwellinghouses in the district have a watercloset for the exclusive use of the occupants. Indeed, some have more than one but there are 919 out of a total of 4,399 dwellings, the occupants of which still have to share waterclosets with their neighbours. Needless to say I always try to encourage the provision of additional waterclosets so that this standard of at least one watercloset per house will some day be effected.

Refuse Bins—The total number of refuse bins in the area at the end of 1956 was 4,627, an increase of 34 over the previous year. As a possible point of interest I feel that the term refuse bin is nowadays far more appropriate than the terms dustbin or ashes bin. The contents of the refuse bins of Darton, for instance, bear almost no relationship to dust and ashes. They consist usually of wet vegetable matter, unburnt coal and cinders, empty food cans and jars, and, I regret to say, far too much paper. Each house has its own bin, of course, and each housewife therefore has it in her power to improve hygiene in the vicinity of her own home. She could burn or put to compost the vegetable matter, she could rinse out the food cans and jars and she could refrain from placing anything wet in the bin at all. She could go a step further and make sure that the bin lid was always in position, and if she formed the habit of always doing these things she would have far fewer flies and illnesses to contend with. As for the disposal of waste paper, if she would keep this separate we would collect it for salvage and the income from it would considerably help to reduce the Rates. In the meantime the Cleansing Department plays its part in the safeguarding of public health by emptying every bin once a week, but it is often noticeable that if they are missed, as sometimes they are at holiday times, our department is the object of bitter complaint. Bins could easily accommodate at least a fortnight's refuse in emergency and yet still remain hygienic receptacles if only they were properly used.

Cesspools—No new cesspools were installed in 1956. Indeed it is with the greatest pleasure that I report the abolition of another 26 of our existing ones by the new sewerage scheme which was commenced in 1955. It was hoped that the year would see the abolition of all cesspools but six, but various difficulties arose and we shall have to await 1957 before this scheme can be completed which will produce yet a further great contribution to healthier surroundings.

Septic Tank Units—Three units were abolished in 1956, again by the new sewerage scheme, leaving a total of 26 units still existing at the end of the year. Periodical inspections were made of these to ensure their satisfactory operation.

Privies and Middens—1956 saw the abolition of a further 5 privies and 4 middens, leaving only 16 privies and 14 middens in the district at the end of the year. 2 privies and 1 midden were abolished when the premises they served were demolished for slum clearance, 2 privies and 2 middens were abolished by the new sewerage scheme, and 1 privy and 1 midden were abolished in favour of a watercloset and a refuse bin by an owner who took advantage of the Council's grant towards the costs. Privies and middens are cleaned out monthly by the Council's workmen.

Pail Closets—One pail closet was abolished by the new sewerage scheme, one was abolished when the farm cottage it served became derelict, and one was installed to factory premises not possible to be drained to the Council's sewer. The total number of pail closets in the district at the end of the year was 26, serving 27 premises. Pail closets serving dwellinghouses are emptied by the bin teams during the weekly bin emptying rounds.

Dwellings on spring water supplies—Only four dwellings throughout the whole area are not supplied with mains water. Samples of the spring water serving these isolated cottages were taken at intervals during the year and although slight pollution was encountered from time to time there was no cause for real alarm.

Dwellings with bath installed—Last year I reported for the first time upon the number of dwellinghouses possessing a room in which a bath was installed, and I expressed the opinion that every dwellinghouse ought to be fitted with this desirable amenity for the furtherance of public health. Our records show that, thanks to the grants for improvements under the Housing Acts, the owners of 23 existing houses had baths installed in 1956. In addition, 57 houses at Higham, owned by the National Coal Board, were provided with bathrooms, and with the erection of 44 new houses in the district it was possible to record that of the 4,439 dwellings in the area, 2,820 possessed an installed bath (63%) by the end of the year.

SECTION 2

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

This section presents a general picture of the housing accommodation of the area. It gives details of the work done with regard to house repairs and slum clearance, and gives a brief indication of the proposed further efforts of the Council to re-house families from unfit houses and to provide housing accommodation for those who have placed their applications on the Council's waiting lists.

Housing Accommodation

The numbers and types of housing accommodation in the area are as follows:—

No. of privately owned dwellinghouses	3,159
No. of Council-owned dwellinghouses	1,144
No. of house-shops	78
No. of farmhouses	33
No. of dwellings at licensed premises	25

Total no. of dwellings in the area	4,439
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With an estimated population of 14,540 this gives an average of approximately 3.2 persons per dwelling.

Houses built in 1956

38 new houses were built by private enterprise and 6 by the Council. It is interesting to note that the Council now owns 25.8 per cent of all dwellings throughout the area. Towards the end of the year a start was made on the erection of 148 new Council houses at Broad Royd Head, 100 of which are intended for slum clearance and the remainder for applicants on the waiting lists.

Houses repaired—action taken during the year

As already reported in Section 1, the majority of the complaints received each year is from people who are troubled with house defects. In greater detail, 664 visits and inspections were made to 521 dwellinghouses for the purpose of securing the repair of defects found. It is impossible to separate for purposes of report whether house defects are nuisances under the Public Health Acts or items of disrepair under the Housing Acts. Suffice it to say that each year every effort is made by us to secure the remedying of all defects found. Often we have to be very patient with the good type of landlord who is anxious to keep his property in good repair but because of rent control he just cannot recover the costs of the repairs from the very low rent he receives. We all know how the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts failed to help him sufficiently, and many an owner who had looked after his property for years found it impossible to gain any recompense whatever from the provisions of that Act. In the meantime we, as public health officials, must continue to

secure repairs to property whenever defects come to our notice. We seem unable to convince owners that monetary matters must not influence our duties of safeguarding the public's health but I do wish this problem of rents versus costs of repairs was not so lop-sided.

Slum Clearance

A great deal of time has been spent on slum clearance during 1956. The official programme had already been prepared in 1955 which listed 394 houses suitable for slum action as and when the opportunities arose to secure their repair, closure or demolition.

As a first step, one area of 58 houses in Mapplewell was declared a Clearance Area, and work was commenced on the building of a new housing estate to re-house the displaced tenants if the Clearance Order became confirmed. Of the 148 houses on this estate 100 are for slum clearance which meant that a further 42 of the worst houses in the area had to be selected. As the ones eventually chosen were unsuitable to be dealt with under Clearance Order procedure, the Council decided to treat them as Individual Unfit houses and the early part of the year was therefore spent in their thorough inspection, the preparation of complete records, and the application of the full legal procedure which had to be pursued.

During the year opportunities also arose for the Council to deal with other unfit houses in the area. Seven families in unfit houses were allocated Council houses under ordinary house re-lets, two families received re-lets under the Council's policy of allocating one in seven re-lets for slum clearance, and when six other very bad houses happened to become vacant the Council immediately placed Closing Orders upon them to prevent them being re-let. Closing Orders were also placed on 17 other unfit houses which had been rendered vacant towards the end of 1955 when the Council re-housed the families in them under the 1955 programme. In all, 26 Closing Orders were placed on unfit houses in 1956, and four houses were voluntarily demolished.

When the new estate is completed the Council will no doubt have to consider very carefully whether to continue building. The high costs involved will result in rents which might be far too high for working folk to pay. If this happens slum clearance in Darton will virtually cease. People who were forced to live in unfit houses during the fifteen years when no building took place and who will still be there when our last 148 houses have been allocated, will almost lose all hope of ever enjoying a proper home with its bath, hot water, healthy rooms and pleasant surroundings. I sincerely hope that some solution to the problem will be found so that building work can be continued at least for the sake of these people.



Typical slum property at Mapplewell



Part of a Council housing estate

SECTION 3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND FOOD PREMISES

This section gives details of the area's meat, milk and other food supplies. It shows the valuable contribution to the safeguarding of public health by the careful inspection of all meat from animals slaughtered within the district, the sampling of milk and ice-cream, and the regular inspections of all premises where food is manufactured, stored or sold.

Meat Supplies

The majority of the meat supplied to the Darton Urban area in 1956 was home killed, and I estimate that over one-third of this was from animals slaughtered within the urban district and inspected by your inspectors either at the time of slaughter or within a very few hours afterwards.

Slaughtering of food animals was performed in eight of the nine slaughterhouses specially licensed for the purpose of relieving congestion at the Barnsley Abattoir until the new extensions there could enlarge the premises to also cope with our butchers' requirements. This system of the issue of licenses was a continuation of the Council's policy since decontrol to assist the local butchers. It enabled them to buy and kill in their own slaughterhouses the food animals of their own choice until the Abattoir extensions were ready. In return for their licences the butchers had given a ready undertaking to accept a scheme prepared by the Council which gave the necessary slaughtering facilities to each butcher and at the same time did not prejudice the Council in any fantastic claims of payment for compensation. Thus for nearly two years since decontrol I had enjoyed the full co-operation of all butchers throughout the area with regard to slaughtering. However, during 1956 the extensions at the Abattoir were declared complete and the Council pressed its policy of Moderate Concentration of slaughtering and took steps to close the slaughterhouses within its district. Having enjoyed their facilities for so long it was only natural that the butchers would protest against this policy and did so at an Inquiry held by a representative of the Minister in September. Whilst the decision of the Minister was awaited the year ended with a continuation of slaughtering in the Darton slaughterhouses.

Table 1 shows the different kinds of food animals slaughtered in the Darton area together with the weights of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption. Any meat found to be in a diseased condition was thoroughly mutilated and stained with a strong green dye to prevent its use for human consumption. Small pieces were burned on local boiler fires whilst large quantities were despatched to a knacker yard in Barnsley for suitable disposal.

TABLE 1

Inspections	Condemnations		
	Animals Slaughtered	Meat (lbs.)	Offal (lbs.)
Bullocks	350	390	980
Heifers	283	295	876½
Cows	57	60	48
Calves	40	—	—
Sheep	998	—	10
Pigs	516	—	50½
Totals	2,244	745	1,974

Table 2 is inserted at the request of the Ministry of Health and indicates the numbers of those animals affected with (a) tuberculosis, (b) cysticercus bovis, and (c) other diseased conditions, in relation to the total numbers of the various animals slaughtered within the district.

TABLE 2

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	633	57	40	998	516
Number inspected	633	57	40	998	516
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	64	1	—	7	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	10.11	1.75	—	0.70	2.13
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	68	6	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.74	10.53	—	—	0.77
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—

Milk Supplies

All milk sold by retail within the district is Designated Milk in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. It must therefore be retailed in sealed bottles only. Gone are the days when a milkman would fill his hand-can from the churn on his milk float and transfer the daily pint of milk into a dusty basin which the housewife used to leave in readiness on the window sill or door-step.

There are 21 milk producing farms in the urban area but only one producer retails direct to the public. The milk from the other farms is collected in bulk either by the Barnsley British Co-operative Society Ltd. or the Express Dairies (Northern) Ltd. who pasteurise the milk, bottle it and retail it to the public in our as well as in other neighbouring districts. Quite a large quantity of Sterilised milk is also retailed in Darton from 15 general food shops whose proprietors are licensed for that purpose under the previously mentioned regulations. There were seven other milk dealers licensed to retail milk during 1956. There are no dairy premises in the area.

Table 3 gives details of the designated milk licences issued during 1956.

TABLE 3

Designation	Dealers' Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised Milk	2	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk	2	5
Sterilised Milk	16	2

Milk Sampling

As a contribution towards the safeguarding of public health 41 samples of designated milk sold in the area by the above retailers were sent to the Laboratory for examination to determine whether or not clean and efficient methods had been practised in production. Details of these showing the results obtained are as follows:—

TABLE 4

Designation	No. of samples taken	Results of Samples	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	11	11	—
Tuberculin Tested	12	11	1
(Certified)			
Tuberculin Tested	10	10	—
(Pasteurised)			
Sterilised	8	8	—
	—	—	—
Totals	41	40	1
	—	—	—

The one unsatisfactory sample came from a farm outside the urban district. The Area Milk Production Officer was immediately notified and he no doubt took action to ensure that no further unsatisfactory samples were despatched from this farm.

In addition to the sampling of designated milks for determining the degree of cleanliness in their methods of production I also take it upon myself each year to obtain samples of the raw milk produced or retailed within the district in order to detect whether or not any is infected with the tubercle bacillus. By this means I have on five occasions during the past few years discovered tuberculous milk and as a result of my sampling, cows which were giving this infected milk have been immediately sent away for slaughter to prevent further tuberculous milk from reaching the public. In 1956 I obtained 20 such samples. One was found to be infected, the offending cow was traced and slaughtered and once again the procuring of these samples justified the time and trouble taken. Every tuberculous cow discovered, of course, brings us a step nearer to the eradication of tuberculosis from the nation's dairy herds.

Samples of milk are also obtained by Sampling Officers of the West Riding County Council Weights and Measures Department. I am indebted to their chief inspector for informing me that during 1956 17 samples of milk were obtained in the Darton district and tested for quality. All were found to be genuine.

Ice-cream supplies

There are no premises in the district in which ice-cream is manufactured. 34 are registered however for the sale and storage of this product but 9 of them temporarily discontinued selling ice-cream during 1956. The other 25 sold only the wrapped, pre-packed commodity supplied by the usual well known firms and, as expected, most of these shops also sold the popular ice-lollies.

Ice-cream sampling

A total of 16 ice-cream and ice-lolly samples was submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory during 1956 and it is pleasing to report that all were in provisional grade one which indicated that they had been manufactured under the best hygienic conditions.

Other Foods

My opinion has been sought by shopkeepers, canteen manageresses and others, on several occasions during 1956 as to the fitness for consumption or otherwise of a miscellaneous assortment of canned foods, packeted foods, foods in jars, and bottles, and various unpacked foods. As a result of this service which we freely give, the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

Canned and Packeted foods ..	116½lbs.
Food in Jars	9 lbs.
Miscellaneous foods	95½lbs.
<hr/>	
Total	221½lbs.
<hr/>	

Other foods sampling

I am informed by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (W.R.C.C.) that his officers obtained 9 samples of other foods from shops in the Darton area. 8 were genuine and one was not. A caution was issued to the vendor of the latter by the Clerk of the County Council.

Food Premises

Table 5 shows the numbers of the various types of food premises and the numbers of visits and inspections made to same during 1956.

TABLE 5

Numbers and types of premises	No. of visits and inspections made
11 premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, potted meat, preserved foods etc.	29
19 butchers' shops	112
76 general food shops	306
25 shops selling ice-cream	28
14 cafes, canteens etc.	39
12 bakehouses	62
14 fried fish shops	59
9 slaughterhouses	814
27 public houses and clubs	40

Food Hygiene

A fairly satisfactory standard of hygiene has been maintained in the above food premises throughout the year, but I am far from satisfied with some of the proprietors because I feel that they are not doing all they ought to provide the customers they serve with goods which are free from contamination by dust, dirt, flies etc. 1956, I regret to report, has been a rather unhappy one for me with regard to the efforts I made for the improvement of hygiene in food premises.

On the 1st of January there came into force the new Food Hygiene Regulations which promised to give local Councils every possible authority to enforce the utmost cleanliness in all food premises. I thought so myself until my colleagues and I came to study their implications. So general was their scope and so wide open to misinterpretation

were some of their sections, that all we could do was to recommend to our various Councils to adopt a series of standards based on the new regulations which would enable us, as inspectors, to apply them to the various types of food premises in our respective districts. The regulations for instance required in all food premises a sink for the washing of food and equipment as well as a wash-hand basin for the washing of hands. How ridiculous this seemed when we thought of the small house/shop with its limited space and the comparative cost of these two units. We tried therefore to be fair to such shopkeepers by relieving them of the responsibility of providing a sink for their equipment but insisting, in return for this concession, that they must provide a wash-hand basin, but it must be sited in the shop itself, which, after all, is the place where food is handled. The amount of opposition which I received from some of the shopkeepers, however, made our relationship somewhat less pleasant than I had previously enjoyed. Their claim was that they already had a sink in the back scullery which was quite sufficient for them to practice thorough hygiene. In spite of my attempts to point out that a domestic sink which might one moment be used for the weekly wash, the next for rinsing babies' nappies, the next for washing the dog, and which was therefore a possible source of contamination to the foodstuffs which would be handled in the shop, some of the shopkeepers preferred not to be convinced and only a very few of them had in fact installed a wash-hand basin by the end of the year. I feel however that the reason why some of them preferred not to be convinced was because of the cost which they would have to incur, but I cannot believe that any of our shopkeepers honestly think that they are practising hygiene really efficiently unless they have a wash-hand basin with hot water, soap, towels and nail brush sited in their shop and within their easy reach as they are serving their customers.

So much for house shops. Other food premises like bakehouses, fried fish shops, cafes and canteens etc. were all called upon to apply the new regulations, and even public houses and clubs were not overlooked. It will take some time yet before all premises are made to comply, but we can be sure that when they do it will have been well worth the trouble taken.

Hawkers of Food

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to adopt a number of sections in the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, amongst which was a section requiring the registration of hawkers of food and their premises. Whilst the principal legal provisions governing

the hygiene of food vans are contained in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, this additional power of registration is useful as a means of excluding from business persons and premises unsuitable for the distribution and storage of food. Fortunately no such hawkers or premises have been found in Darton yet.

The processes of registration will be commenced in 1957.

SECTION 4

PUBLIC CLEANSING SECTION

The keeping of records and the supervision of the work done by the staff of the cleansing department in their regular emptying of refuse bins, pail closets and privies, the cleansing of cesspools, the sweeping of streets and the collecting of salvage provides an important addition to our daily duties. This section gives details relative to all aspects of these services which are so vital to public health.

Staff

The cleansing staff during 1956 consisted of a foreman, a driver/mechanic and sixteen men. Although we were often in difficulties at holiday times and during periods of sickness we managed without engaging additional staff. As usual there were two or three staff changes during the year.

Ten men forming two bin teams were employed on the emptying of refuse bins and on one day each week we had to form a third bin team from the remainder of the staff to cope with the ever-growing total of bins which required servicing. Two men formed a cesspool emptying team, one man was employed on the refuse tips and the rest of the staff performed a variety of duties such as emptying middens, sweeping streets, collecting and baling waste paper etc.

The men worked a 44 hour five day week throughout the year. Each man received a fortnight's holiday with pay in addition to the usual six days statutory holidays. The number of hours actually worked by the men totalled 35,016½ but 2,247 hours were lost owing to holidays and 1,788½ hours were lost through sickness and other causes. I am pleased to report that the latter figure was less than that of the previous year.

The work of the cleansing staff is very arduous. The 4,653 bins and pails are emptied weekly and the cesspools and privy middens monthly. On the whole I believe the men gave of their best throughout the year and I do feel I enjoy the loyalty of every single man. The foreman coped well with many difficult administrative problems to keep every aspect of the service playing its vital part. The driver-mechanic, responsible as he is for the good performance of the vehicles, proved his worth by keeping repair costs down to a minimum. The other drivers, each in charge of a vehicle

valued at well over £1,000, nursed their machines through the year without accidents. The tip-man, the bin loaders, the fetchers-out and the takers-back, often worked through shocking weather to keep up to schedule, trying to maintain the proud record they have of finishing their daily rounds, whilst the man baling the salvage played his own part by coping with the innumerable loads of waste paper to prevent congestion in the baling shed. I also wish to record my appreciation to the men who had the unpleasant duty of cleansing the privies, the middens and the foul smelling cesspools.

For protective clothing each man received a free issue of two boiler suits during 1956. Gumboots are also available for use in extremely dirty conditions and members of bin teams are also provided with leather gloves and eye-shields.

Vehicles

The Council own three, seven-cubic-yard refuse vehicles all of the same make and design, and an 800 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle. Servicing is done by the driver/mechanic and the three other drivers are allowed two hours overtime each week to carry out greasing and minor adjustments to their respective vehicles. It is part of the Council's policy to re-paint one vehicle per year but this was not possible in 1956. The vehicles are all painted alike in a dual tone of maroon and battleship grey and it is pleasing to report how proud each driver is in keeping his vehicle in as immaculate a condition as possible in spite of the dirty environment in which the vehicles have to work. Consequently, although two of the vehicles are over seven years old, their appearance and mechanical condition are such that they seem just as new as the others. I shall not be surprised therefore if each of our vehicles gives good service for as long as fifteen years, which will thoroughly justify the service and attention which they receive each year.

Depots

The main depot is at Barugh where the vehicles are garaged, where part of the stores are kept and where the foreman's house is situate. During the year the whole yard was re-surfaced with tarmac and the buildings were renovated, giving the depot a very pleasing appearance. At our other depot at Darton Main we have the staff messroom, the paper baling shed, the foreman's office and another storeroom. I shall always feel that the Cleansing Department is unsuitably housed until it can be accommodated in premises as one single unit, namely in a Central Depot, but I am pleased to record that the Council have now decided to consider proposals to effect this improvement in 1957.

Refuse Tips

During 1956 refuse from Darton, Kexbrough and Haigh was disposed of on Darton Main tip, that from Staincross and Mapplewell was tipped at Blacker, and the refuse from Gawber, Barugh and Higham was disposed of on Higham Welfare sports ground to contribute towards the laying of a new football pitch. Towards the end of the year two dangerous and unsightly canal locks were filled in with refuse and this work opened up a new tipping site in the old abandoned canal bed at Barugh. Controlled tipping is practised as closely as possible but there is always difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of soil for covering.

A township with adequate refuse tipping space is very fortunate and a township with a separate refuse tip with easy reach of each of its residential localities is more fortunate still. We in Darton have both adequate and easily reached tipping space for many years to come. Considerable time, petrol and wear-and-tear costs are therefore saved every year because of our good fortune in this respect.

Street Sweeping

The department was responsible for the sweeping of the seventy-seven streets and roads (excluding County roads) throughout the district. Their total length is in the region of fifteen miles. On these highways there are nearly 700 street gullies which all have to be emptied by hand shovelling. The only system which we could practise throughout the year was to send one, two and if we were lucky, three men out, sweeping and gully emptying as and when men could be spared from other duties. Each street was swept in its turn and when the rota was completed the men would begin all over again at the first street on the list. The sweepings and gully contents were usually picked up at the end of the day by one of the refuse vehicles. I am looking forward to 1957 when the cesspool emptying vehicle can be converted for mechanical gully emptying as planned, and the two cesspool men, whose work will be reduced when all but six of our cesspools are abolished, can be transferred to street sweeping to give a more efficient service, long overdue.

Cost Details

The total wages paid out was £7,973 3s. 1d. with a further expenditure of £1,740 for costs of petrol, vehicle repairs, tools, protective clothing, rents for depots, repairs to depots, insurance and other miscellaneous items. A total figure in the region therefore of £9,700 gives us the total amount which it cost the ratepayers to maintain this important public

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service. When one calculates, as a point of interest only, that the annual cost to each person in the district is in the region of 13s. 6d., the service given appears ridiculously cheap. If each person received no other service from our department but the emptying of their refuse bins 50 times a year it would still be cheap, yet the cleansing staff also sweeps the streets, empties privies and cesspools, collects salvage, kills rats in the sewers and performs a variety of minor duties all for this same 13s. 6d.

Salvage Details

The total income derived from the sale of salvaged materials was £1,317 3s. 10d., an increase of £33 6s. 7d. over 1955. Details of materials salvaged are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
119 tons 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts. Mixed Paper sold for	862	14	6
52 tons 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. Cardboard sold for	443	19	4
3 cwts. of Rags sold for	3	18	0
648 Bottles sold for	2	14	0
13 cwts. scrap tins sold for	3	18	0
Total	£1,317	3	10

and from this total £556 5s. 0d. was paid to members of the cleansing staff in accordance with the Salvage Bonus Scheme.

There was an increase of 27 tons over last year in the total weights of paper and cardboard collected, but unfortunately prices fell to such an extent that the gross income proved little better than that of 1955.

SECTION 5 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR REPORT

In addition to those duties which have warranted the preparation of special sections, there are many other duties to perform of a miscellaneous nature and these I report upon in this, the final section. At the end of the section is a summary showing the total number of visits and inspections made by Mr. Sutton and myself throughout 1956 relative to all our duties.

Factories

In accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, I give below the particulars which the Minister of Labour and National Service has prescribed shall be recorded in the Annual Report:—

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	69	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	2	—	—
Total	32	74	5	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	2*	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	12	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	1	—	—	—
Total	31	15	—	1	—

*One brought forward from 1955.

No outwork within the meaning of the Act is carried on in the District.

The department continues to work in close and amicable liaison with H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

Cinemas

Supervision of the patrons' toilets at the two cinemas in the district continued during 1956.

Pet Animals

One shop only is registered under the Pet Animals Act 1951 at which no contraventions were found during our inspections.

Public Houses and Clubs

122 visits were made to these premises for the purposes of making inspections as to the suitability and sufficiency of toilet accommodation for the customers and for the purpose of advocating more hygienic practises to comply with the new food regulations.

Agricultural Lime Scheme

The department continued to operate a scheme whereby agricultural lime could be purchased at subsidised prices by gardeners and allotment holders within the area. During 1956 a total of 539 cwts. was sold—84 cwts. more than in 1955.

Business Premises

Mainly for statistical purposes the following is a list of the various types of business premises in the area as recorded at the end of 1956:—

No. of Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
No. of Lock-up shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
No. of Hotels or Public Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
No. of Farms	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
No. of Chapels, Churches, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
No. of Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
No. of Cinemas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
No. of other Business Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52
No. of Dwellinghouse-shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78

Hairdressers and Barbers

Section 120 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, which the Council adopted towards the end of the year, brings legal control over hairdressers and barbers. This, as subsequent inspections revealed, is a desirable power for a local authority to possess. Whilst it enables a Council to enforce some improvements in sub-standard premises, it is in no way irksome to those hairdressers who desire a high standard in their establishments.

The section enables a local authority to adopt byelaws which impose detailed standards on hairdressers and their premises. The Council decided to adopt these byelaws, and they will come into force in the District on the 1st March, 1957.

In December of this year four hairdressers were registered without hesitation since they and their premises were of an excellent standard.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954

This Act, which deals with the prevention of cruelty to animals which are slaughtered for human consumption, is our responsibility as far as Darton is concerned. I am pleased to report that no contraventions occurred during the year and the major part of our work done in this connection resolved itself into the granting of licences to slaughtermen permitting them to use a mechanically operated instrument for the purpose of stunning such animals. Twenty-four slaughtermen appear on our records as the holders of the necessary licences.

Interviews, Meetings attended etc.

It might appear when reading this Report that all our work is performed on the district, visiting the various premises which I have referred to, but I must mention that a great deal of time has to be spent in the office interviewing callers, preparing reports, compiling records and filling in innumerable returns. The total number of persons interviewed in the office was 352 which obviously took up some considerable time but it is an essential part of our duties that we be there to help people with their problems, discuss points with architects and builders, advise owners as well as tenants and interview commercial travellers eager to offer us better products with which to perform our duties. Rodent control, smoke abatement and a variety of other meetings have also to be attended during every year if we are to keep up to date with our ever changing legislation. As to making returns, compiling reports, composing letters and keeping records, these duties, although often irksome, simply must be carried out as an essential part of our annual routine.

Summary of Visits, Inspections and Work done during 1956

Dwellings

Re general defects	664
Re drainage	466
Re ashes accommodation	130
Re closet accommodation	77
Re infectious diseases	42
Re filthy conditions	8
Re verminous conditions	13
Re water supplies	9
Re offensive accumulations	25
Re yard paving	20
Moveable dwellings	4
Visits with Housing Agent	6
Re Slum Clearance	427
Re Improvement Grants	3
Re rodent control	131
Sanitary Survey	57
Food poisoning	2
Re overcrowding	1
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	37

Food Premises

Registered food preparing premises	29
Butchers' shops	112
General food shops	306
Slaughterhouses	814
Re milk sampling	54
Re food condemnations	15
Ice-cream premises	28
Bakehouses	62
School Kitchens, Cafes, Canteens, etc.	39
Re ice-cream sampling	19
Fried Fish Shops	59
Public Houses and Clubs	40
Travelling Shops and Vans	3
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	9

Business Premises

Re smoke abatement	28
Re toilets etc. at Public Houses	82
Re rodent control	61
Re toilets etc. at Cinemas	3
Pet Shop	2
Factories with power	71
Factories without power	3
Hairdressers' and Barbers' premises	46
Farms re rodent control	17
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	83

General

Re Cleansing and Salvage	445
Interviews	352
Rodent control in Sewers etc.	578
Piggeries, stables, etc.	2
Meetings attended	42
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	150
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	5
Drains tested	72
Samples of water taken from isolated farms	9
Houses disinfested to eradicate vermin	2
Food samples taken after suspected food poisoning	1
Faeces samples taken relating to food poisoning	1
Ice-cream samples taken	16
Milk samples taken for detection of Tuberculosis	20
Designated milk samples taken	41
T.B. milk samples taken	20
Pasteurised milk samples taken	11
T.T. milk samples taken	12
T.T. (Pasteurised) milk samples taken	10
Sterilised milk samples taken	8



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